

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Location: Marriott: 5500 Hilton Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

**January 19, 2021**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, Felicia Lee, James Little, Angela Machen, Larry Thomas, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Jerry Thibeau, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry S. Bankston.

Two new ARBC Commissioners were introduced: Angela Machen representing East Baton Rouge Parish and Felicia Lee representing St. Helena Parish.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Little to approve the October 2020 regular meeting minutes. Note: There were no regular meetings held in in November and December 2020 due to Covid-19.
5. Financial Statement Report

Bailey presented to the Board the October, November and December 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Babin to approve the October, November and December 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
6. Executive Director Report
  - Comite River Diversion Canal Project: Rietschier said that the construction of the Project is currently in the hands of the USACE and DOTD. ARBC remains 1 of 4 partners of the Project. Monthly meetings are held to provide updates and discussion amongst the 4 partners. He provided the status of the construction, real estate, rights-of-way, and utility relocation of the project. Utility relocations and right-of-way acquisitions are going on simultaneously all along the channel. He provided a hand-out to the Board listing ten (10) features of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project with verbal updates on each. The Lilly Bayou Control Structure (largest feature of the canal) is complete. US Hwy. 61 and KCS RR bridges are under construction (USACE). Baton Rouge Bayou Drop Structure is under Bid. (USACE). LA Hwy. 964 Bridge design is complete. (LA DOTD). Cypress Bayou Drop Structure is under design. (USACE). LA Hwy. 19, bridge and Geaux-Geaux RR bridge is under design. (LADOTD). Channel clearing, McHugh Rd – White Bayou is done. (USACE). McHugh Rd Bridge, design. (USACE). White Bayou Drop Structure is under Bid. (USACE). LA Hwy. 76, Plank Road bridge is under design. (LADOTD).
  - Rietschier presented the LA DOTD Report: Utility Relocations and ROW acquisitions are ongoing as follows: 54 out of the 83 parcels acquired, 4 being appraised and the rest under negotiations, utilities continuing to relocate, LA 964-bridge design complete, LA 67-bridge design at 60% complete, LA 19-bridge design at 50% complete.
  - Bankston said that the current projected completion of the CRDC Project is being revised by USACE. Official notice has not been given but will be sometime in 2022.
  - The Board unanimously made a motion by Thomas, second by St. Pierre to add the previously approved contract with various consultants to now include Phase 1 and 3 – Inundation Map (part of the FPMP) \$100,000 to the agenda.
  - Bob Jacobsen said at this time Phase 2 for \$30,000 is an option. They will request an additional \$100,000 to complete the project by August 2021 but at this time \$100,000 is needed for Phase 1 and 3. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Parker to approve \$100,000 to be used toward Phase 1 and 3, Inundation Map (part of the FPMP).
7. ARBC Legal Counsel: None
8. Old Business: None

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9. New Business

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to renew the Redshift Consulting IT contract for an additional 3 years.
- Thompson requested a letter be drafted to present to the City of Central mayor and councilmembers in reference to development in high-risk flood areas. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted.

Parker provided to the ARBC commissioners a copy of a Memo that ARBC Commissioner Larry Thomas wrote on December 16, 2020 to the ARBC Executive Board in reference to the proposed Louisiana Watershed Initiative - Region 7, governance and function of participating entities.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President

Date: 2/23/21

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary